

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:

Version # \_\_\_\_\_

APP # 700077

## 1. Project Description

### A. Statement of GO Activity

Through this grant application, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) proposes to fund maintenance contracts in support of the OHV recreation program in the Imperial Sand Dunes Recreation Area (ISDRA).

This application requests funding for the maintenance contracts to provide for trash collection and replacement signs made of VOC freerecycled materials. Trash is collected at several sites throughout the ISDRA. Vault toilets are pumped three to four times a season on an as needed basis. They are also cleaned once a week during the season and daily during holiday periods. The maintenance of the facilities keeps the recreation area clean, safe and healthy for all future OHV visitors.

#### Matching Dollars

In addition to the contracts, BLM is utilizing labor from volunteers and staff as matching funds. Volunteer Campground Hosts maintain the Buttercup Ranger Station and the Dunebuggy Contact Station. In addition to visitor contacts, and general maintenance, they pick up trash, clean and stock vault toilets (in addition to the contractor), landscape, and pass out educational information and trash bags.

Group volunteer projects account for many hours of matching funds. These events, that occur monthly, solicit visitors to pick up trash in the Imperial Sand Dunes Recreation Area.

BLM staff time is being used as match for the administration and compliance of the contracts.

### B. Relation of Proposed Project to OHV Recreation

#### Trash Removal

Removal of the trash from the recreation site has been an increasingly cumbersome task in the Imperial Sand Dunes. In the past, the BLM provided 40 yard trash bins (through OHV grant and fee funding) with open tops and they were emptied once a week. This resulted in several problems: an overflow of trash on holiday weekends causing unsanitary and unsightly conditions, it was difficult for visitors to reach over the top of the bin to place trash inside, and it was labor intensive for the BLM to pick up the overflow trash.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) is concerned about the possible impacts to the desert tortoise by open trash bins because they could attract ravens and coyotes to the area that prey on the desert tortoise, a species classified as "Threatened", under the Endangered Species Act. The FWS's Biological Opinion now requires covered trash bins. If BLM fails to comply with their terms and conditions, OHV opportunity could be lost in the Imperial Sand Dunes. These grant funds help BLM meet protect OHV opportunity and the Desert Tortoise.

In FY 2006, the BLM replaced the 40 yard bins with six yard bins. The six yard bins are lower and provide easier access for the visitor. Although the bins are smaller, there are more bins per site and they are serviced more frequently, sometimes, several times per day. The new bins have lids to keep out ravens and coyotes and have resulted in less litter and overflow, thereby decreasing the possibility of artificially attracting a raven to desert tortoise habitat and helping to protect the desert tortoise species. The change has resulted in a cleaner and conservation oriented waste removal system. Currently, there are only minor amounts of litter around the trash bins. After the trash is transported away from the site, it is taken to a sorting facility for recycling.

Funding of the trash bins reduce the amount of litter on the ground. This results in a direct reduction in the amount of time and money the BLM will spend picking up the trash by hand. In the past, before the new six yard dumpsters, BLM would spend tens of thousands of dollars on labor picking up trash each season.

#### Vault Toilets Maintenance

The 61 vault toilets in the Dunes reduce the amount of waste deposited on the ground in the open area and in the

wilderness. Since the placement of new toilets in FY2007, there has been a significant decrease in the amount of toilet paper and human waste in the microphyll woodlands and creosote flat habitats. These areas are habitat for migratory birds, Colorado fringe toed lizard, and other endemic insect species.

Vault toilet cleaning is completed once a week during the regular weekends between October through May and once a month during the rest of the year. The exception to this schedule are the busy holiday weekends. Holidays require daily cleaning and have resulted in a healthy and safer environment for the visitors. Without daily cleaning of the vault toilets on the holiday weekends, visitors are exposed to unsanitary conditions and disease.

Each vault toilet has an 800-1,000 gallon capacity. All toilets are pumped three to four times a season. The contractor is called as needed and the units are monitored by BLM.

### **C. Size of the Project**

The Imperial Sand Dunes are the largest mass of sand dunes in California. This dune system extends for more than 40 miles along the eastern edge of the Imperial Valley agricultural region in a band averaging five miles in width. It is roughly bordered on the west by the New Coachella Canal and on the east by a Union Pacific Railroad line. The Imperial Sand Dunes Recreation Area is 159,072 acres in total. At this time, 83,253 acres are open to OHV used and 75,819 are closed to OHV recreation.

Trash bins and 61 vault toilets are located at Glamis, Gecko Road, Dunebuggy Flats Road, Buttercup and Midway Campgrounds. Each site consists of two to 20 covered six yard trash bins and multiple toilets.

### **D. Location and description of OHV opportunities**

The Imperial Sand Dunes Recreation Area (ISDRA) is the most popular off-highway vehicle area in the southwestern United States and provides a unique, world class recreation opportunity. Over 83,000 acres are designated as "open" to OHV use. There are no designated routes and OHV recreationalists are allowed to travel cross country. The northern most area is known as Mammoth Wash OHV Open Area. It receives low use and visitors to this area can quite and solitude and still recreate on OHVs. South of Mammoth Wash is the North Algodones Dunes Wilderness established by the 1994 California Desert Protection Act. This area is closed to motorized use and access is by hiking and horseback. The largest and most heavily used area begins at Highway 78, between Glamis and Gecko Road, and continues south past Buttercup to the Mexico border. Visitors in these areas will experience large crowds, fast OHVs, and a "show and shine" atmosphere. Commercial areas are set up for vending where OHV riders can go shopping, buy parts, have their OHV serviced, or buy a hot meal. The expansive dune formations offer picturesque scenery, opportunities for solitude, a chance to view rare plants and animals, and a playground for OHVs unmatched by any other area.

The area east of the ISDRA is managed under the Northern and Eastern Colorado plan and the area to the west is managed under the Western Colorado plan. OHV use is allowed on designated routes in both areas.

## **2. Rerouting Requirements**

### **Rerouting**

- (a) Does your project involve rerouting of any roads and trails? ☐ Yes ☒ No

If response to question (a) is 'Yes', a Project timeline, conceptual drawings and site plans are required (See 'Attachments' tab at the top of the screen)

If response to question (a) is 'No', skip details related to rerouting

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1. **Project Timeline (Required if project includes necessary rerouting)**
2. **Conceptual Drawings and Site Plans (Required if project includes necessary rerouting)**
3. **Project-Specific Maps**  
Attachments:
  - [ISDRA facility locations](#)
  - [ISDRA map](#)
4. **Optional Project-Specific Application Documents**

Project Cost Estimate for Grants and Cooperative Agreements Program - 2008/2009  
 Agency: BLM - El Centro Field Office  
 Application: Ground Operations

6/2/2009

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:		Version # _____	APP # _____
<b>APPLICANT NAME :</b>	BLM - El Centro Field Office		
<b>PROJECT TITLE :</b>	Ground Operations	<b>PROJECT NUMBER (Division use only) :</b>	
<b>PROJECT TYPE :</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Acquisition <input type="checkbox"/> Development <input type="checkbox"/> Education & Safety <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ground Operations <input type="checkbox"/> Law Enforcement <input type="checkbox"/> Planning <input type="checkbox"/> Restoration		
<b>PROJECT DESCRIPTION :</b>	<p>Through this grant application, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) proposes to fund maintenance contracts in support of the OHV recreation program in the Imperial Sand Dunes Recreation Area (ISDRA).                  This application requests funding for the maintenance contracts to provide for trash collection and replacement signs made of VOC freerecycled materials. Trash is collected at several sites throughout the ISDRA. Vault toilets are pumped three to four times a season on an as needed basis. They are also cleaned once a week during the season and daily during holiday periods. The maintenance of the facilities keeps the recreation area clean, safe and healthy for all future OHV visitors.</p> <p>Matching Dollars</p> <p>In addition to the contracts, BLM is utilizing labor from volunteers and staff as matching funds. Volunteer Campground Hosts maintain the Buttercup Ranger Station and the Dunebuggy Contact Station. In addition to visitor contacts, and general maintenance, they pick up trash, clean and stock vault toilets (in addition to the contractor), landscape, and pass out educational information and trash bags.</p> <p>Group volunteer projects account for many hours of matching funds. These events, that occur monthly, solicit visitors to pick up trash in the Imperial Sand Dunes Recreation Area.</p> <p>BLM staff time is being used as match for the administration and compliance of the contracts.</p>		

	Line Item	Qty	Rate	UOM	Grant Request	Match	Total
<b>DIRECT EXPENSES</b>							
<b>Program Expenses</b>							
1	<b>Staff</b>						
	Other-Camp Host Volunteer, 1 of 2 Notes : These matching funds are for the time a Buttercup Campground Host time spends on maintenance of the facilities.	1040.000	21.970	HRS	0.00	22,849.00	22,849.00
	Other-Camp Host Volunteer, 2 of 2 Notes : These matching funds are time for the time a Buttercup Campground Host time spends on maintenance of the facilities.	1040.000	21.970	HRS	0.00	22,849.00	22,849.00

Project Cost Estimate for Grants and Cooperative Agreements Program - 2008/2009  
Agency: BLM - El Centro Field Office  
Application: Ground Operations

6/2/2009

	Line Item	Qty	Rate	UOM	Grant Request	Match	Total
	Other-Volunteer Clean up, group events Notes : These matching funds are for the volunteer's time spent participating in the clean up events in the Imperial Sand Dunes.	4500.000	21.970	HRS	0.00	98,865.00	98,865.00
	<b>Total for Staff</b>				0.00	144,563.00	144,563.00
<b>2</b>	<b>Contracts</b>						
	Other-Trash Collection Notes : This line item is for the collection of trash from covered dumpsters in the Dunes.	1.000	400000.000	YR	175,000.00	225,000.00	400,000.00
	Other-Toilet Pumping Notes : This contract pumps out the 61 vault toilets on an as needed basis. They are usually pumped three to four times per year and each unit hold 800-1,000 gallons.	1.000	88000.000	YR	0.00	88,000.00	88,000.00
	Other-Toilet Cleaning Notes : This contract cleans and restocks the 61 vault toilets in the dunes on a weekly basis and daily during peak periods.	1.000	102000.000	YR	0.00	102,000.00	102,000.00
	<b>Total for Contracts</b>				175,000.00	415,000.00	590,000.00
<b>3</b>	<b>Materials / Supplies</b>						
	Other-replacement signs Notes : These are replacement signs. No posts will be installed and there will be no ground disturbance as part of this project. Signs will be made of recycled material and VOC free.	1.000	2000.000	MISC	1,000.00	1,000.00	2,000.00
<b>4</b>	<b>Equipment Use Expenses</b>						
<b>5</b>	<b>Equipment Purchases</b>						
<b>6</b>	<b>Others</b>						
<b>7</b>	<b>Administrative Costs</b>						
	Administrative Costs-Manage Contracts	40.000	37.060	HRS	0.00	1,482.00	1,482.00

Project Cost Estimate for Grants and Cooperative Agreements Program - 2008/2009  
Agency: BLM - El Centro Field Office  
Application: Ground Operations

6/2/2009

	Line Item	Qty	Rate	UOM	Grant Request	Match	Total
	Notes : These funds are for the Contracting Officer's Representative who authorizes payments to the contractor and manages the contract in the El Centro Field Office						
	Administrative Costs-Contractor Complian Notes : These funds are for the Dunes Supervisor who regularly checks contractor compliance and performance in the field and reports to the Contracting Officer's Representative in the El Centro Field Office.	80.000	40.910	HRS	0.00	3,273.00	3,273.00
	<b>Total for Administrative Costs</b>				0.00	4,755.00	4,755.00
	<b>Total Program Expenses</b>				176,000.00	565,318.00	741,318.00
	<b>TOTAL DIRECT EXPENSES</b>				176,000.00	565,318.00	741,318.00
	<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>				<b>176,000.00</b>	<b>565,318.00</b>	<b>741,318.00</b>

Project Cost Summary for Grants and Cooperative Agreements Program - 2008/2009  
 Agency: BLM - El Centro Field Office  
 Application: Ground Operations

6/2/2009

	Line Item	Grant Request	Match	Total	Narrative
<b>DIRECT EXPENSES</b>					
<b>Program Expenses</b>					
1	Staff	0.00	144,563.00	144,563.00	
2	Contracts	175,000.00	415,000.00	590,000.00	
3	Materials / Supplies	1,000.00	1,000.00	2,000.00	
4	Equipment Use Expenses	0.00	0.00	0.00	
5	Equipment Purchases	0.00	0.00	0.00	
6	Others	0.00	0.00	0.00	
7	Administrative Costs	0.00	4,755.00	4,755.00	
<b>Total Program Expenses</b>		176,000.00	565,318.00	741,318.00	
<b>TOTAL DIRECT EXPENSES</b>		176,000.00	565,318.00	741,318.00	
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>		<b>176,000.00</b>	<b>565,318.00</b>	<b>741,318.00</b>	

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**ITEM 1 and ITEM 2**

**ITEM 1**

- a. ITEM 1 - Has a CEQA Notice of Determination (NOD) been filed for the Project? ☐ Yes ☒ No  
(Please select Yes or No)

**ITEM 2**

- b. ITEM 2 - Are the proposed activities a "Project" under CEQA Guidelines Section 15378? ☐ Yes ☒ No  
(Please select Yes or No)
- c. The Application is requesting funds solely for personnel and support to enforce OHV laws and ensure public safety. These activities would not cause any physical impacts on the environment and are thus not a "Project" under CEQA. (Please select Yes or No) ☐ Yes ☒ No
- d. Other. Explain why proposed activities would not cause any physical impacts on the environment and are thus not a "Project" under CEQA. DO NOT complete ITEMS 3 – 9

The project does not have the potential for resulting in either a direct physical change in the environment, or a reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment, and is a continuing administrative and maintenance activity. The project is requesting funds to collect trash and replace existing signs. There will be no ground disturbance in this project.

**ITEM 3 - Impact of this Project on Wetlands**

**ITEM 4 - Cumulative Impacts of this Project**

**ITEM 5 - Soil Impacts**

**ITEM 6 - Damage to Scenic Resources**

**ITEM 7 - Hazardous Materials**

Is the proposed Project Area located on a site included on any list compiled pursuant to Section 65962.5 of the California Government Code (hazardous materials)? (Please select Yes or No) ☐ Yes ☒ No

If YES, describe the location of the hazard relative to the Project site, the level of hazard and the measures to be taken to minimize or avoid the hazards.

**ITEM 8 - Potential for Adverse Impacts to Historical or Cultural Resources**

Would the proposed Project have potential for any substantial adverse impacts to historical or cultural resources? (Please select Yes or No) ☐ Yes ☒ No

If YES, describe the potential impacts and for any substantially adverse changes in the significance of historical or cultural resources and measures to be taken to minimize or avoid the impacts.

**ITEM 9 - Indirect Significant Impacts**

**CEQA/NEPA Attachment**

Attachments:

[NEPA CX](#)



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**1. Project Cost Estimate - Q 1. (Auto populates from Cost Estimate)**

1. As calculated on the Project Cost Estimate, the percentage of the cost of the Project covered by the Applicant is 10

(Check the one most appropriate) (Please select one from list)

- ☒ 76% or more (10 points)  
☐ 51% - 75% (5 points)  
☐ 26% - 50% (3 points)  
☐ 25% (Match minimum) (No points)

**2. Failure to Complete - Q 2.**

2. Failure to complete the Project would result in: 8

(Check all that apply) : Maximum of 8 points (Please select applicable values)

- ☒ Loss of OHV Opportunity (6 points)  
☐ Negative impact to cultural sites (2 points)  
☒ Damage to special-status species or other sensitive habitat (2 points)  
☐ Potential trespass (2 points)  
☐ Additional damage to Facilities (1 point)

Explain each statement that was checked

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is concerned about the possible impacts of open trash bins because they could attract ravens and coyotes to the area that prey on desert tortoise, a threatened species. Our Biological Opinion now requires covered trash bins. If BLM fails to comply with the Fish and Wildlife Service terms and conditions in the Biological Opinion, OHV opportunity could be lost in the Dunes. These grant funds could help to protect OHV opportunity and the desert tortoise.

**3. Sustain OHV Opportunity - Q 3.**

3. The Project would sustain OHV Opportunity by 5

(Check all that apply) (Please select applicable values)

- ☐ Maintaining trail or road tread (5 points)  
☐ Installing or repairing erosion control features (3 points)  
☒ Providing traffic control and/or educational signage (3 points)  
☒ Maintaining multi use (ATV, Dirt Bikes, 4x4, etc) (1 point)  
☒ Providing varied levels of riding difficulty (1 point)

Explain each statement that was checked

These grant funds could help to protect OHV opportunity, of varied levels of difficulty, for all OHV riders by keeping the area open for use. We also request funds for replacing old and worn signs in the recreation area that provide direction and education about area rules.

**4. Public Input - Q 4.**

4. The Project was developed with public input employing the following 2

(Check all that apply) : Maximum of 2 points (Please select applicable values)

- ☐ Meeting(s) with the general public to discuss Project (1 point)  
☒ Conference call(s) with interested parties (1 point)  
☒ Meeting(s) with stakeholders (1 point)

Explain each statement that was checked

On January 27, 2009 BLM staff meet with the OHV leadership in the CA Desert District office to discuss grant applications. At that time, El Centro Staff discussed the applications being considered for submission in the 2009 OHMVRD grant process. Multiple conference calls have been held with multiple parties and will continue throughout the grant application process.

**5. Utilization of Partnerships - Q 5.**

5. The Project will utilize partnerships to successfully accomplish the Project. The number of partner organizations that will participate in the Project are 4

(Check the one most appropriate) (Please select one from list)

- ☒ 4 or more (4 points) ☐ 2 to 3 (2 points)  
☐ 1 (1 point) ☐ None (No points)

List partner organization(s):

United Desert Gateway, Duner's Diner, Ride Now, Quad Magazine, Sand SportsMagazine, Monster Energy, American Sand Association, GlamisWeather.com, Honda, Kawasaki,

**6. Impact to Natural and Cultural Resources - Q 6.**

6. The Project will avoid and/or minimize impact to natural and cultural resources by 7

(Check all that apply) : Maximum of 7 points (Please select applicable values)

- ☐ Maintaining physical barriers to control OHV use (1 point)  
☐ Protecting water quality (1 point)  
☐ Providing bridges instead of wet crossings where appropriate (1 point)  
☐ Protecting special-status species (1 point)  
☐ Re-routing trails to divert away from riparian/wetlands areas (1 point)  
☐ Providing sanitary facilities (1 point)  
☐ Protecting cultural site(s) (1 point)  
☒ Site design precludes the need for the above measures (7 points)

Explain each statement that was checked

The trash collection and toilet sites were identified and designed to be placed in locations that would not impact special-status species, riparian areas, or natural and cultural resources.

**7. Recycled Materials - Q 7.**

7. The Project incorporates recycled materials by utilizing 1

(Check all that apply) (Please select applicable values)

- ☐ Barrier materials which include recycled content or materials obtained onsite (1 point)  
☒ Signs, sign posts or education kiosks which use products with recycled content (1 point)  
☐ Erosion control features which use materials with recycled content (1 point)  
☐ Paper used for trail maps which includes recycled content (1 point)  
☐ Other products with recycled content (Specify) (1 point)

**8. Sustainable Technologies - Q 8.**

8. The Project makes substantial use of sustainable technologies such as 4

- Alternative fuel vehicles and equipment
- Renewable energy sources (e.g., solar, wind)

- Low volatile organic compound emission materials (e.g., paint, sealants, carpet)
- Low flow plumbing fixtures
- Water efficient landscaping

(Check the one most appropriate) (Please select one from list)

☐ No (No points)

☒ Yes (4 points)

Explain 'Yes' response

Camp Hosts maintain the landscaping at the Buttercup Ranger Station. The landscaping consists entirely of drought resitant native vegetation and is also labled for interpretive purposes. The landscaping was donated and installed by the Boy Scouts of America.

Signs will be made of recycled material and VOC free bonding resin.

**9. Motorized Access - Q 9.**

9. The Project improves and/or maintains facilities that provide motorized access to the following non-motorized recreation opportunities 6

(Check all that apply) Scoring: 2 points each, up to a maximum of 6 points (Please select applicable values)

☒ Camping

☒ Birding

☒ Hiking

☐ Equestrian trails

☐ Fishing

☐ Rock Climbing

☐ Other (Specify)